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## **MISSION**

The Black United Fund (BUF) of Tennessee will serve as a philanthropic and service institution that fosters self-help initiatives and economic empowerment.

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## **ORGANIZATION BACKGROUND**

The Black United Fund of Tennessee, established in 1994, is a fund-raising organization and social- economic movement designed to improve the quality of life for African Americans through reliance on self-help at the community level. BUF of Tennessee is the twentieth affiliate of the National Black United Fund, a nation wide network of Black United Fund philanthropic organizations throughout the United States. The organization supports a variety of programs and organizations that provide vital services in communities of greatest need. These programs includes projects that are dedicated to improving education, arts and culture, economic development, health and human services and youth development.

BUF of Tennessee utilizes general fund-raising mechanisms to encourage donor support at every economic level through employee workplace giving, payroll deduction, and community outreach campaigns. Currently, BUF of Tennessee participates in various workplace giving campaigns at local, state, federal, and corporate levels. Through campaign participation, Black United Fund is enabled to provide financial support in the form of grants to various nonprofit and grass roots agencies throughout the Memphis and Shelby County. Applying agencies must be a 501(c)(3) and submit a proposal to BUF's Grant Committee for review. Grant funding recommendations are forwarded to the Board of Directors which is comprised of (16) sixteen active local clergy, proprietors, businessmen/businesswomen, corporate, civic and community persons. Black United Fund's Board of Directors give final approval for all decisions, recommendations, grant requests as well as establish policies and procedures that will best implement BUF's strategies and plans for action.

## **PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

Black United Fund of Tennessee seeks to empower the growth and development of people, institutions, and wealth in communities of greatest need as well as promote the best management of these resources.

BUF of Tennessee seeks to become an organizationally, programmatically and fiscally

sound proactive institution, which takes a leadership role in the national development of Black philanthropy and serves as a major anchor for supporting and developing funding initiatives that facilitate the positive growth and development of the Black community.

BUF of Tennessee support organizations that have demonstrated the ability or potential to:

advance economic development in the African American community;

develop effective educational programs for youth and improve education in public schools;

preserve African-American history and advance creative work in the performing, literary, and visual arts;

offer health and social services to the community, especially services designed to improve the quality of life for African American families;

respond to community needs and empower people to eliminate root causes rather than treat symptoms;

engage in independent research, where required, to determine needs and to evaluate the quality of life in the African American community.

**For more information, please contact 901/726-5353**

<http://tenn.nbuf.org/>

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